

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection and rejection set forth in the above-mentioned Office Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 are pending in this application, with Claim 1 being the only independent claim. Claims 7-26 have been cancelled without prejudice and Claims 1, 2 and 5 have been amended herein. Support for the amendments to the claims may be found in the specification. Applicants submit that no new matter has been added.

In the Office Action, Claims 7, 9 and 10 have been objected to because of informalities. Without conceding the propriety of the objection, and solely to advance prosecution, Applicants have cancelled Claims 7, 9 and 10. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the objection is moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are requested.

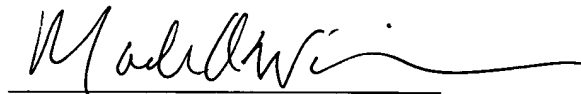
Claims 1-14 have been provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly unpatentable over Claims 1-7 and 9 of Application No. 10/909,281. In view of the fact that only Claims 1-6 remain pending in the present application, Applicants note that the provisional double patenting rejection is the only remaining issue in this application. Additionally, Applicants note that Application No. 10/909,281 remains pending. Pursuant to MPEP 804(I)(B), when a provisional double patenting rejection is the only remaining rejection in one of the co-pending applications, the Examiner should withdraw the rejection in that application and allow that application to issue as a patent. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the provisional double patenting rejection.

Applicants submit that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claim 1. Dependent Claims 2-6 are also patentable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in independent Claim 1. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection and rejection set forth in the above-noted Office Action and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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